



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Child sex offender and absconder arrested by ICE officers
Aggravated felon failed to leave U.S. after receiving final deportation orders

HOUSTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers Tuesday arrested a 40-year-old convicted child sex offender for absconding from a Jan. 16 immigration deportation order.

Antonio Avilez-Granados, a citizen of Mexico, entered the United States through Houston in 1988 and was originally ordered deported by a federal immigration judge in 1988. In 1994, he was arrested and charged with an aggravated felony assault of a child and was sentenced in Harris County to 10 years of deferred adjudication.

In April 2004, Avilez-Granados appealed his earlier deportation order. In July of that same year, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) dismissed Avilez-Granados' request to stay in the United States. On Jan. 16, 2006, the BIA ordered Avilez-Granados deported. When he failed to leave the country, ICE officers apprehended him without incident at his residence at the 1100 block of Evanston.

"Arresting sexual predators is one of our top priorities," said Kenneth L. Landgrebe, field office director for ICE Detention and Removal Operations. "It is essential that we remove those who prey on our most vulnerable in our society, our children."

This arrest was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals, including 615 in Texas.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.